

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning at the bottom of page 2 as follows:

a1  
Many industrial processes such as power generation, metal smelting and processing, waste incineration and vitrification, glass melting, crude oil refining, petrochemical production, and the like use burners as the primary or as an auxiliary source of energy. These burners have one or more inlets for hydrocarbon based fossil fuels such as, but not limited to, natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, liquid hydrocarbon-based fuel, and the like, which are combusted to produce heat. The fuels are burned in a combustion chamber where the energy that is released by the combustion is transferred in the form of heat for the required purpose. The combustion requires an oxidant, such as air, oxygen-enriched air, or oxygen. In most cases, the oxidant is preheated in order to provide for more efficient combustion.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 15 of page 13 as follows.

a2  
In most cases, air, as the oxidant and gaseous fuel are mixed in the pre-mixer section located in ~~an upstream region prior to introduction into the inlet 26 through the fuel nozzle 46 10~~. The fuel/air mixture 36 is introduced into the fuel nozzle 16 through inlet 26. The fuel/air mixture 36 is then injected into the combustion zone 14 through nozzle outlet ports 28. An ignition source 38 ignites the fuel/air mixture thereby initiating the combustion process 40 or flame.